Message

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Subject: Region 6 - Infrastructure Success Stories

Doug and Megan,

Below are a few examples of good, unique infrastructure needs success stories that you requested. The descriptions are a bit longer than you requested (2-3 sentences) but I am included the entire write-up for your consideration.

Best,

David

REGION 6 - INFRASTRUCTURE SUCCESS STORIES

JACKSONVILLE DRINKING WATER INCIDENT – October 2018

Project Description: On October 3, 2018, the Craft-Turney Water Supply Corporation located south of Jacksonville, Texas, in Cherokee County, TX issued a "Do Not Use Order" on 16 water connections related to a back siphonage event at Arrington Sawmill. The back siphonage into the drinking water system occurred from a tank, without a backflow prevention device, containing a wood preservative, Methylene bis-thiocyanate (MBT), an active ingredient in the wood preservative that was utilized in treating wood pallets.

Expedited Assistance to TCEQ to Resolve the Issue

The EPA Region 6 Houston Environmental Laboratory provided a real time assistance to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) with drinking water sample analysis for MBT. The Lab was able to quickly develop a unique Gas Chromatography analysis method for MBT. The lab analyzed 35 water samples received from TCEQ on October 10, 2018, all with non-detect results.

The Lab's ability to expedite development of an MBT analytical method, analyze 35 samples, and confirm the absence of MBT from the drinking water system provided reliable and valuable information to TCEQ for their next steps.

CORPUS CHRISTI DRINKING WATER INCIDENT – December 2016

Project Description: On December 15, 2016, the EPA was notified about a warning issued to Corpus Christi's 320,000 residents "Not Drink or Use Tap Water" following a back-flow incident at an asphalt terminal operated by Ergon Asphalts & Emulsions on the property of Valero Energy Corporation, Texas. EPA was alerted to be on standby to perform emergency analytical services. In addition, the City of Corpus Christi provided a news release that identified the chemical of concern as asphalt emulsifier, Indulin AA-86, estimating the amount of release to be from 3 to 24 gallons. The Department of State Health Services laboratory in Austin was unable to perform the analysis upon learning the chemical nature of the asphalt emulsifier.

Expedited Assistance to TCEQ to Lift Drinking Water Advisory

The EPA Houston Lab Team was tasked with the emergency capability development of analytical methods for Indulin AA-86 in drinking water, and for developing the capacity to analyze numerous and recurring daily samples from the City's drinking water system. The Team developed two new, time critical, analytical chemistry methods to detect Indulin AA-86. Additionally, the Team provided 'around the clock' analytical services for over 200 drinking water samples collected during the incident, from confirmatory sampling sites as well as complaint verification sampling. This herculean effort of highly qualified and dedicated professionals, and all negative test results, enabled the TCEQ to lift the Corpus Christi drinking water advisory on December 18, 2018.

BORDER WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM - Agua SUD Wastewater Residential Connections , Palmview, Texas

Project Description: Residents in the Project area, currently, do not have access to centralized wastewater collection and treatment infrastructure and only on-site wastewater disposal systems such as septic tanks/drain field or other types of on-site systems such as cesspools. Due to population density and soil conditions, these systems do not operate properly and are, generally, not in compliance with TCEQ requirements, often resulting in surface pooling of untreated or inadequately treated discharges. These conditions are further exacerbated during flooding events, when the risk for human contact with raw sewage increases and run-off into nearby drainage canals threaten the quality of water used for agriculture in the area. A Texas Department of Health Nuisance Order was issued for these conditions. he Project consists of the installation of 1,752 wastewater hook-ups along with the decommissioning of the corresponding on-site disposal systems.

Project Time-Savings: Project development time and costs were reduced by 1 year and $300,000, respectively. This was because of EPA was able to incorporate the NEPA work, geotechnical work and final designs funded by the TWDB, our project partner. Project Development time for this project was approximately 1.0 year compared to a typical 2-year project development time for similar type projects.

TEXAS DRINKING WATER AND CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUNDS

Project Description: The Texas Water Development Board has an Urgent Need Program (DWSRF) and a Disaster Recovery Response Emergency Relief Program (CWSRF) to assist communities with urgent needs. Eligible projects/communities get additional subsidies, streamlined/expedited environmental and expedited public reviews. Projects under these programs may outrank (bypass) other projects in the States' annual intended use plans. The communities also receive technical assistance from TWDB to reach their funding at a quicker pace. During SFY 2018, the TWDB DWSRF program committed funds to several projects including (but not limited to):

Project Outcomes:

- Ramirez Common School District. Project Amount $800,000. All Urgent Need funding.
- Devine. Project Amount $9,900,000. $500,000 Urgent Need funding.
- Cisco. Project Amount $15,159,900. $500,000 Urgent Need funding. $5,964,900 Disadvantaged Community funding.
- Mason. Project Amount $2,669,200. $700,000 Urgent Need funding. $969,200 Disadvantaged Community funding.
- Holiday Beach WSC. Project Amount $700,000. $700,000 Urgent Need funding for Hurricane Harvey relief.

LOWER BOIS D'ARC DRINKING WATER RESERVOIR, TEXAS

Description: With engagement and partnership from EPA, a project to provide a drinking water source for North Texas is closer to getting underway. The Lower Bois d'Arc Creek Reservoir project, as proposed by the North Texas Municipal Water District, will create water supply reservoir to provide drinking water to cities north and east of Dallas, Texas. As a cooperating agency, EPA worked with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other stakeholders over several years to address issues with the proposed project, which will impact more than 6,000 acres of wetlands and more than 120 miles of streams. Through this engagement, the North Texas Municipal Water District increased mitigation measures to offset

environmental impacts of the project. This mitigation plan outlines efforts to restore and enhance wetlands and streams at sites close to the project area. Total mitigation efforts will provide compensation with 9,131 wetlands acres and 74.3 miles of streams. The North Texas Municipal Water District serves one of the fastest-growing urban areas in the country. The Lower Bois d'Arc Creek reservoir will provide drinking water supply infrastructure for this growing population by 2022. When finished, the reservoir will yield an estimated 175,000 acre feet of drinking water per year for North Texas consumers.

Outcome: In 2017, EPA Administrator met with the North Texas Municipal Water District. At the time, they had been stuck in the various state and federal approval processes for a new $1.2 billion reservoir since 2003! That is unacceptable, and we are committed to improving and expediting these processes. On January 26, 2018, EPA concluded its permit review, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issued the final permit on February 2. The reservoir, which is anticipated to be operational in 2022, will yield over 70 million gallons of water a day and provide a massive economic boost to the region due to new housing, hotels, restaurants, and stores. It will be the first new reservoir constructed in Texas in nearly 30 years. Ultimately, the TWDB, EPA and Corps of Engineers entered into a MOA to bring clarity to the process. Process matters. The MOA not only helped this project but will help future projects outlined in the Texas Water Plan which envisions more new reservoirs to serve Texans.